

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

January 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of Review Case No. C-2008-055R, Helena M. Fontenot

SUBMITTED BY: Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: January 8, 2009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Helena M. Fontenot applied for a Substitute teaching certificate on April 4, 2008.

On her application for certification, Ms. Fontenot answered “yes” to having been arrested for an offense for which she was fingerprinted. In her disclosure statement, Ms. Fontenot explained that she was arrested on August 31, 1989, and fingerprinted. She stated that she was unaware of any record being held in reference to this event until a background check was performed by the Health Department of the State of Michigan. She stated that the FBI uncovered an old record still on file in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in which there was no conviction and the case did not appear before a judge. She paid a \$75.00 fee to have it expunged. She left Michigan prior to checking if the record was formally expunged.

On August 18, 2008, the Investigative Unit received a police report from the Broward County Ft. Lauderdale Police Department. Ms. Fontenot was arrested on August 31, 1989, for attempted burglary and prowling.

On July 17, 2008, the Investigative Unit mailed a letter to Ms. Fontenot informing her that her application required a review by the State Board of Education (“The Board”) and requested that she submit additional documentation. Ms. Fontenot failed to respond to the July letter and a follow-up letter was sent on September 22, 2008, advising her that the State Board would proceed with a review of her application if she did not provide the requested documentation or withdraw her application within 60 days.

The Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“the PPAC”) reviewed Ms. Fontenot’s application on November 13, 2008, and recommended that the application be denied based on the following findings:

Ms. Fontenot’s application is substantively incomplete because it is missing the required and requested documentation, pursuant to A.R.S. 15-534.01. Ms. Fontenot failed to submit police records, or other investigative reports relative to the incident in question, a minimum of four current letters of recommendation, and a notarized statement concerning the underlying incident.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:

That the Board accepts the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the PPAC and **deny Ms. Fontenot’s** application as being substantively incomplete.

ATTACHMENTS: YES ☒ NO ☐